

National avalanche bulletin no. 128

for Thursday, 12 March 2009

issue date 11.3.2009, 18:30 hours

Still high avalanche danger in some northern regions

Current conditions

On Wednesday it was overcast in northern regions, amid snow showers. In inneralpine regions there were bright spells; in southern regions it was sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m were minus 4 to minus 6 degrees. A moderate to strong northwesterly wind was blowing. Since Tuesday midday along the northern Alpine Ridge and in Prättigau, as well as in the Valais between Verbier and Zermatt, there has been 30 to 50 cm of new snow.

Since the beginning of this period of precipitation on Sunday evening, there has been 50 to 80 cm of new snow along the northern Alpine Ridge, locally even more. In the southern Valais, in northern Ticino and in the northern regions of Grisons, there has been 20 to 50 cm of snowfall, further to the south less than 15 cm. Due to the strong winds, a great deal of snow has been transported. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais and the Lower Engadine in particular, the generally thick snowpack is prone to triggering even down to its lowermost layers. The avalanche corridors are filled up with huge masses of snow. Thus, the avalanches forge ahead great distances.

Short-term development

On Thursday in northeastern regions it will be predominantly overcast. In the central and eastern parts of the northern flank of the Alps, in northern Grisons and in the Lower Engadine, 5 to 15 cm of new snow is expected. In the Valais and in southern regions it will be sunny. The midday temperatures at 2000 m will be minus 2 degrees in western and southern regions, minus 5 degrees in eastern regions. Moderate to strong northerly winds are expected to prevail.

Avalanche danger forecast for Thursday

Northern flank of the Alps east of the Reuss not including the Prealps:

High avalanche danger (Level 4)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all expositions above approximately 1800 m. Natural avalanches of medium and large size can be expected which can place the exposed parts of transportation routes in danger. For backcountry skiers and freeriders, conditions in outlying terrain away from secured ski runs are highly critical.

Remaining northern flank of the Alps; Valais; Gotthard region; Val Blenio; northern and central Grisons; Engadine; Müntstertal:

Considerable avalanche danger (Level 3)

In the indicated regions on the northern flank of the Alps, in the Valais, in the Gotthard region, in the northern Surselva, in northern Grisons, in the Lower Engadine and in the Müntstertal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found on steep slopes in all aspects above approximately 1800 m. Single persons can easily trigger avalanches in the layers of the snowpack nearest the surface. In the inneralpine regions of the Valais, in the Lower Engadine and in the Müntstertal, avalanches can fracture down to the lowermost layers of the snowpack and attain medium size. Particularly in the inneralpine regions and areas with lots of new snow, natural avalanches are possible. In isolated cases they can place exposed parts of transportation routes at risk.

In the remaining central Grisons, in the Upper Engadine and in the Bleniotal, the avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on wind loaded slopes in all expositions above approximately 2000 m. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations can be easily triggered and should be avoided.

Upper Maggia valleys; lower Leventina; central Ticino; Val Calanca; Val Moesa; Bergell; Puschlav:

Moderate avalanche danger (Level 2)

Avalanche prone locations are to be found primarily on west to north to east facing steep slopes above approximately 1800 m and in areas adjacent to ridge lines in all aspects. Freshly formed snowdrift accumulations should be evaluated with great caution.

Sotto Ceneri:

Low avalanche danger (Level 1)

Particularly on the northern flank of the Alps and in the Valais below about 2000 m, moist sluffs and full depth snowslides can be expected over the course of the day.

Trend for Friday and Saturday

On Friday, northeastern regions will still have some final, persistent clouds. From the west it will turn increasingly sunny and become significantly warmer. The avalanche danger will be subject to a daytime warming cycle. In low lying areas and at intermediate altitudes, the danger of wet snow avalanches will increase. The danger of dry avalanches will recede.

National avalanche bulletin as an MMS (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

Send an SMS with the corresponding key word to the speed dial number 162.

LAWINE overview of the keywords

LAWCHD national avalanche bulletin (german)

Weather Information in collaboration with **MeteoSwiss**

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax
(phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

Regional avalanche bulletins (Fr. 0.50/MMS)

LAWZCH Central Switzerland

LAWBVS Lower Valais / VD

LAWOVS Upper Valais

LAWNGR North and Central Grisons

LAWSGR South Grisons

LAWBEO Bernese Oberland

LAWEAN Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: wap.slf.ch

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

Feedback information:

Email: lw@slf.ch

Free phone/fax: 0800 800 187 / 88






Avalanche danger forecast

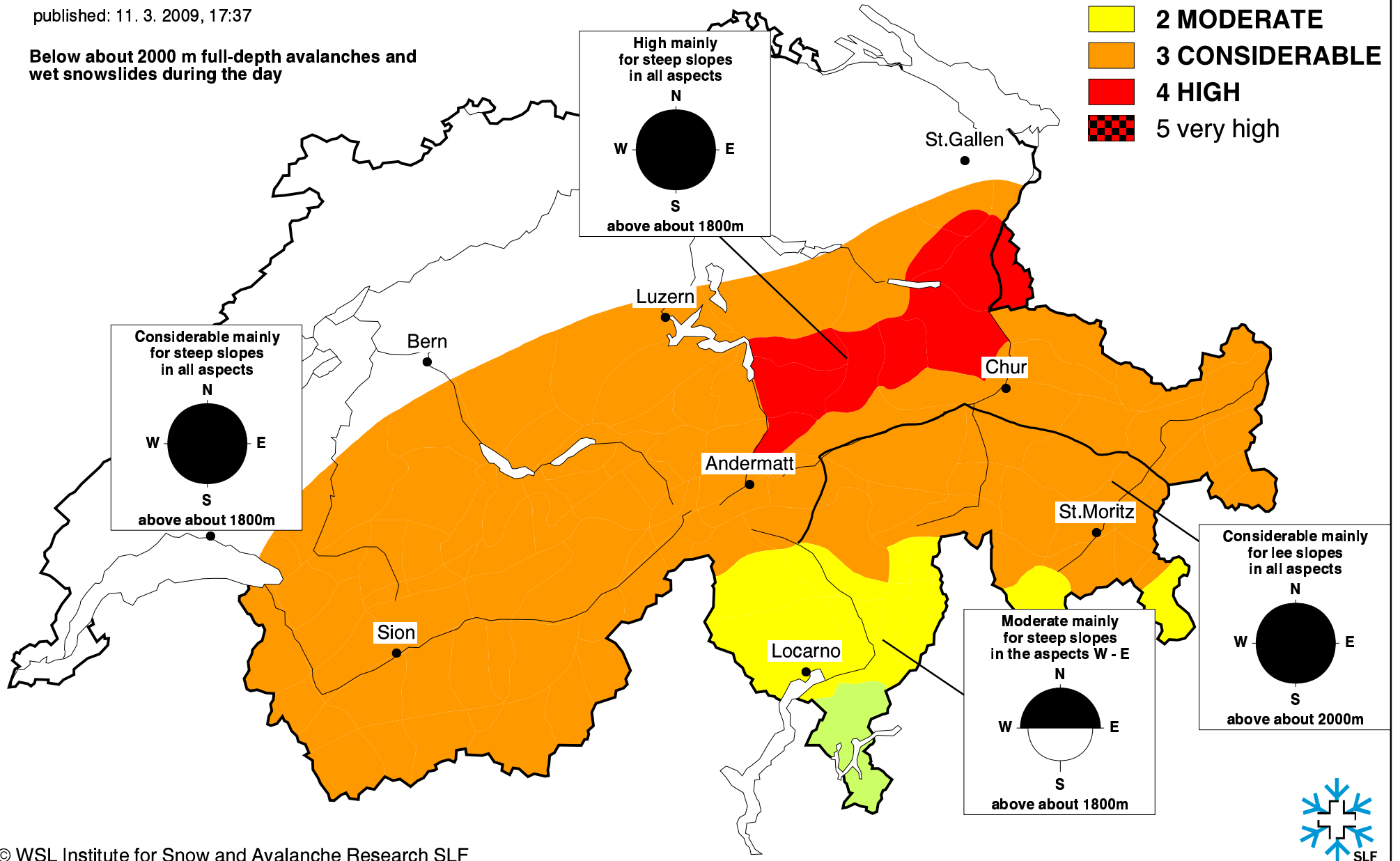
for Thursday, 12. March 2009

published: 11. 3. 2009, 17:37

Below about 2000 m full-depth avalanches and wet snowslides during the day

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 HIGH
-  5 very high








Avalanche danger forecast

for Thursday, 12. March 2009

published: 12. 3. 2009, 07:58

Below about 2000 m full-depth avalanches and wet snowslides during the day

Danger level

-  1 LOW
-  2 MODERATE
-  3 CONSIDERABLE
-  4 high
-  5 very high

